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# THE ECONOMIC JOURNAL

*The Quarterly Journal of the Royal Economic Society*

No. 263

SEPTEMBER 1956

Vol. LXVI

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more important the thermo-nuclear devices exploded hitherto to the gonads of people in this country is likely to be 0.001-0.002 r in the next fifty years. Continuous explosions at the rate of those over the past few years would give an individual in this country only about an average of 0.001 r per annum. But an increase in the rate of explosions of thermo-nuclear (hydrogen) bombs would increase this amount correspondingly.

### Other Changes from Thermo-nuclear Explosions

Apart from the genetic dangers the most obvious risk to health is from the accumulation of radio-strontium in the bones. A continuation of firing at the present level would lead to an accumulation of about 100th of the estimated safe dose.

C. O. CARTER.

IN THE OCTOBER 1956 NUMBER OF

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## The After-Forty Baby

*To the Editor, Eugenics Review.*

SIR,—The following is an abstract from the *Daily Mail* of July 13th, 1956: "Fifty-year-old Lady Pakenham, mother of eight...talked of the fears of some women of the after-forty baby. Lady Pakenham said that she had read that the child of an over-forty mother might be very intelligent but physically weak. 'That is not my experience,' she said. 'My son Kevin, born

eight years ago, is the only member of the family to have won a running race. He is tall, very strong, and certainly above average intelligence'."

Lady Pakenham could perhaps tell her readers more about this most interesting subject, especially the figures for mental defectives, mongols and hydrocephalics where the first baby is born after the mother has reached the age of forty.

J. CAMPBELL.

17 Meadway, N.W.11.

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(Established in 1916)

Volume XXXVI

JANUARY 1956

No. 143

Editor: DR. OM PRAKASH

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